

Thirty years ago, when I edited a high school press bureau for the local paper, I was committed to honest, newsworthy, responsible journalism. As a teacher for over 20 years, I continued to teach fairness and commitment to truth, and was committed to bringing out the best in my students. The country has changed; the FCC apparently has changed. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair has free use of the public airwaves. They are obligated by law to serve the public interest. However, when large companies are allowed to control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. We should be learning about real people from our own communities through substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.